

METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR SELECTING A COMMUNICATION NETWORK

ABSTRACT

Methods and apparatus for selecting a cellular network to provide one or more
5 communication services for a mobile communication device are disclosed. A scanning
operation is performed by the mobile device to identify a plurality of cellular networks that
support a voice communication service in a geographic coverage area. The mobile device
then identifies which of the cellular networks makes a data communication service available
to it. Advantageously, the mobile device assigns priority to or selects a cellular network that
10 makes the data communication service available over a network that fails to make the data
communication service available, and may register with that network. The data
communication service may include, as examples, an e-mail communication service or an
Internet access service. Preferably, the cellular network operates in accordance with GSM
(Global System for Mobile) and GPRS (Generalized Packet Radio Service).